

When inflammatory colitis is not due to inflammation: An alternative diagnosis for inflammatory bowel disease

Dulcena Yen, Frederick H Koh, Fung-Joon Foo

CASE REPORT

A middle-aged gentleman presented with persistent hematochezia for two weeks. This was associated with diarrhea and colicky lower abdominal pain. He was afebrile and had no complaints of anorexia. The patient had a recent travel history to Philippines, a developing country, and also had recent contact with a family member who had similar presenting symptoms, but has spontaneously resolved. His physical examination and digital rectal examination were both unremarkable.

The patient underwent a colonoscopy (Figure 1) and biopsies were taken (Figure 2).

Colonoscopy (Figure 1) showed inflammation in the rectum and sigmoid. In addition, there is also an inflamed patch involving the cecum but the terminal ileum was normal in appearance. Macroscopic findings suggested ulcerative colitis and multiple biopsies of areas of inflammation were taken.

Histology was consistent with acute colitis of the rectum; however, there were also some focal necroinflammatory debris which contained detached aggregates of round-to-oval amoeba-like organism with ingested red blood cells. The diagnosis was amoebic colitis. The patient was then treated with 10 days of oral metronidazole.

DISCUSSION

Amoebic colitis is a type of intestinal protozoan disease and the second leading cause of death by

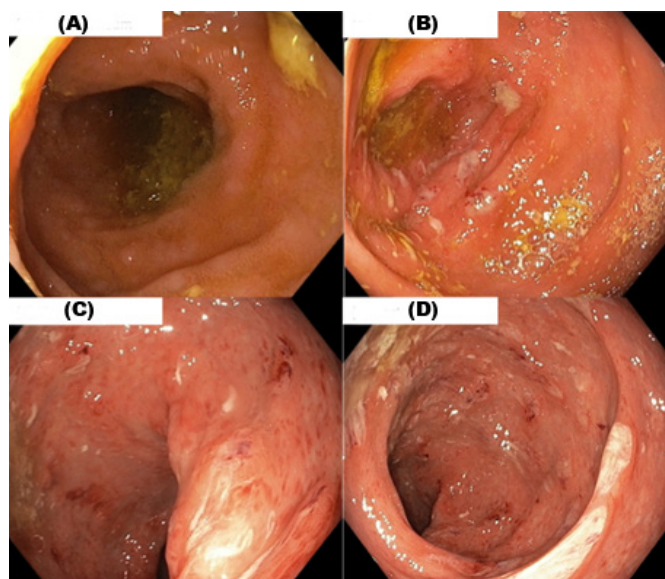


Figure 1: Colonoscopy images of the terminal ileum (A), cecum (B), sigmoid (C), and rectum (D).

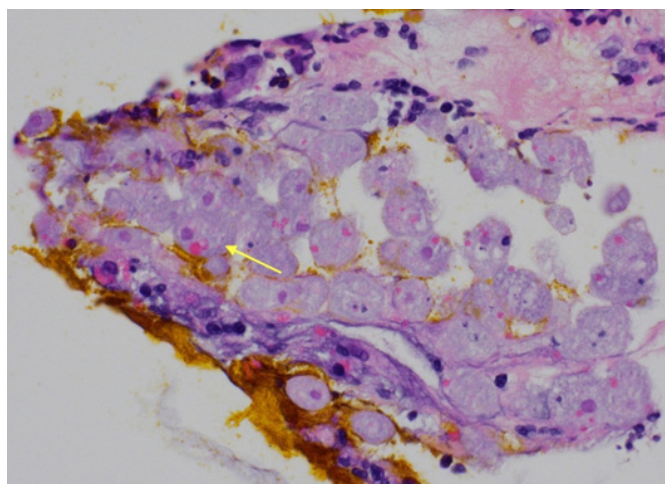


Figure 2: Biopsy specimen of cecum colitis revealing PAS positive single cell organism containing red blood cells, HE stain, magnification, 600x.

Dulcena Yen¹, Frederick H Koh¹, Fung-Joon Foo¹

Affiliation: ¹Doctor, Department of General Surgery, Sengkang General Hospital, Sing Health, Singapore.

Corresponding Author: Dr. Frederick H Koh, Division of Colorectal Surgery, Department of General Surgery, Sengkang General Hospital, 110 Sengkang East Way, Singapore 544886, Singapore; Email: frederickkohhx@gmail.com

Received: 20 April 2020

Accepted: 21 November 2020

Published: 23 December 2020

parasitic infection in the world, and is more prevalent in the developing countries [1]. Endoscopic evaluation might not be readily available in these countries and endoscopic images taken in developed countries may not

lead the physician to the diagnosis of amoebic colitis [2]. Amoebiasis is a great mimic of other conditions, such as inflammatory bowel disease and colon cancer [3]. With the increase in air travel, citizens from affluent societies also have an increased risk of exposure to such parasitic infection. History of travel and histological diagnosis are therefore important in the management of intestinal amoebiasis.

CONCLUSION

Amoebic colitis remains rare in the developed countries; however, the ability to mimic other conditions such as inflammatory colitis may alter the management of the condition which may not treat the underlying cause. Therefore, endoscopic and histological diagnosis is important in the management of inflammatory colitis for the appropriate management of the disease.

Keywords: Amoebiasis, Colitis, Colonoscopy, Inflammatory bowel disease

How to cite this article

Yen D, Koh FH, Foo F-J. When inflammatory colitis is not due to inflammation: An alternative diagnosis for inflammatory bowel disease. *Int J Case Rep Images* 2020;11:101183Z01DY2020.

Article ID: 101183Z01DY2020

doi: 10.5348/101183Z01DY2020CI

REFERENCES

1. Ali IKM, Clark CG, Petri WA Jr. Molecular epidemiology of amebiasis. *Infect Genet Evol* 2008;8(5):698–707.
2. Swaminathan V, O'Rourke J, Gupta R, Kiire CF. An unusual presentation of an amoebic liver abscess: The story of an unwanted souvenir. *BMJ Case Rep* 2013;2013:bcr2012006964.
3. Deesomsak M, Sukeepaisarnjaroen W, Sawanyawisuth K. Differential diagnosis of ulcers throughout the colon. *Rev Soc Bras Med Trop* 2014;47(3):401.

Acknowledgments

Many thanks to Mr Winson J Tan, Ms Sharmini S Sivarajah, Dr Lianne AL Lee, and Mr Min-Hoe Chew for their contribution to this paper.

Author Contributions

Dulcena Yen – Conception of the work, Design of the work, Acquisition of data, Analysis of data, Interpretation of data, Drafting the work, Revising the work critically for important intellectual content, Final approval of the version to be published, Agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved

Frederick H Koh – Conception of the work, Design of the work, Acquisition of data, Analysis of data, Interpretation of data, Revising the work critically for important intellectual content, Final approval of the version to be published, Agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved

Fung-Joon Foo – Conception of the work, Design of the work, Acquisition of data, Analysis of data, Interpretation of data, Revising the work critically for important intellectual content, Final approval of the version to be published, Agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved

Guarantor of Submission

The corresponding author is the guarantor of submission.

Source of Support

None.

Consent Statement

Written informed consent was obtained from the patient for publication of this article.

Conflict of Interest

Authors declare no conflict of interest.

Data Availability

All relevant data are within the paper and its Supporting Information files.

Copyright

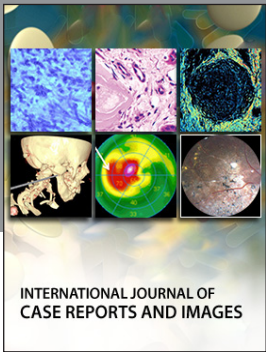
© 2020 Dulcena Yen et al. This article is distributed under the terms of Creative Commons Attribution License which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium provided the original author(s) and original publisher are properly credited. Please see the copyright policy on the journal website for more information.

Access full text article on
other devices



Access PDF of article on
other devices





Submit your manuscripts at
www.edoriumjournals.com

